IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 3, 12, 13, and 17 in accordance with the following:

1.   (currently amended) A mediation negotiating method for mediating a negotiation between a client for an auction and providers of goods and/or services in the auction using an electronic network, comprising:

forming requesting conditions including a plurality of items in which priorities based on a mediating request from the client have been allocated to request purchase information in response to ~~the~~a mediating request of said client for the auction received via the network, wherein

the forming of the requesting conditions comprises analyzing the mediating request from the client to form said plurality of items, and

said plurality of items includes items formed from an inquiry to the client, items formed from client information, items calculated from values of already established request items, or a combination thereof;

forming a negotiation field;

inputting said requesting conditions;

notifying, via the network, the requesting conditions to a plurality of providers selected in accordance with said requesting conditions;

receiving, via the network, response information in accordance with said priorities from the plurality of providers who participate in said negotiation field; and

notifying, via the network, said client and the selected providers of the response information of all of the participating providers arranged in accordance with the priorities of said request purchase information;

wherein the providers are not identified to the client until the client issues a negotiation finalizing instruction.

2.   (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein in said forming of requesting conditions, priorities are allocated to request articles or the request purchase information such as service, price, term of delivery, and the like, thereby forming the requesting conditions with said priorities as said requesting conditions.

3.   (currently amended) A mediation negotiating method for mediating a negotiation between a client for an auction and providers of the auction of goods and/or services using an electronic network, comprising:

forming requesting conditions in which priorities based on a mediating request from the client have been allocated to request purchase information in response to thea mediating request of said client received via the network;

forming a negotiation field;

inputting said requesting conditions;

notifying, via the network, the requesting conditions to a plurality of providers selected in accordance with said requesting conditions;

receiving, via the network, response information in accordance with said priorities from the plurality of providers who participate in said negotiation field; and

notifying, via the network, said client and the selected providers of the received response information of all the participating providers;

wherein in said negotiation responding, when said client is notified of the response information inputted into said negotiation field, the response information sorted in accordance with the priorities of said request purchase information is notified; and

the providers are not identified to the client until the client issues a negotiation finalizing instruction.

4.   (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein in said forming of requesting conditions the mediating request from the client is analyzed, and one or a plurality of requesting conditions are formed.

5.   (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein in said forming of the negotiation field, the request purchase information including the priorities in the requesting conditions inputted into said negotiation field are changed and inputted again.

6.   (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein in said forming of the negotiation field if there are a plurality of requesting conditions, respective ones of the providers are selected under a condition of corresponding to at least one of said plurality of requesting conditions, and the negotiation field between the providers and said client is formed.

7.   (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein

in said forming of the negotiation field, a negotiation term is set into said negotiation field and the requesting conditions are inputted, and

in said receiving of the response information the end of the negotiation is discriminated and the negotiation field is closed.

8.   (previously presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein in said receiving of the response information the negotiation field is closed by a negotiation decision instruction of said client or an expiration of the negotiation term.

9.   (previously presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein in said receiving of the response information the negotiation term is extended on the basis of an instruction from the client.

10.   (previously presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein in said receiving of the response information, when conditions which have been preset are satisfied upon expiration of the negotiation term, the negotiation term is automatically extended.

11.   (original) A method according to claim 10, wherein when there is no response information or the number of response information does not reach a predetermined threshold value upon expiration of the negotiation term, the negotiation term is automatically extended.

12.   (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium in which a mediation negotiation program implemented via a network ishas-been stored, wherein said mediation negotiation program comprises:

forming requesting conditions including a plurality of items in which priorities based on a mediating request from a client for an auction have been allocated to request purchase information in response to thea mediating request of thea client, wherein

the formation of the requesting conditions comprises analyzing the mediating request from the client to form said plurality of items, and

said plurality of items includes conditional items formed from an inquiry to the client, items automatically formed from client information, items calculated from values of already established request conditional items, or a combination thereof;

forming a negotiation field;

inputting said requesting conditions;

notifying a plurality of providers of goods and/or services <u>for the auction</u> selected in correspondence with said requesting conditions of said requesting conditions;

receiving response information <u>in accordance with said priorities</u> from the plurality of providers who participate in said negotiation field; and

notifying said client and the selected providers of said response information of all of the participating providers arranged in accordance with the priorities of said request purchase information<u>;</u>

<u>wherein the providers are not identified to the client until the client issues a negotiation finalizing instruction</u>.

13.   (currently amended) A mediation negotiating program which causes a computer to:

form requesting conditions including a plurality of items in which priorities <u>based on a mediating request from a client for an auction</u> have been allocated to request purchase information in response to <s>the</s><u>a</u> mediating request of <s>the</s><u>a</u> client;

form a negotiation field;

input said requesting conditions;

notify a plurality of providers of goods and/or services <u>for the auction</u> selected in correspondence with said requesting conditions of said requesting conditions;

receive response information <u>in accordance with said priorities</u> from the plurality of providers who participate in said negotiation field; and

notify said client and the selected providers of said response information of all of the participating providers arranged in accordance with the priorities of said request purchase information<u>;</u>

<u>wherein the providers are not identified to the client until a negotiation finalizing instruction is received from the client</u>.

14. (withdrawn) A negotiation responding method, comprising:

receiving request information inputted into a negotiation field formed on an electronic network;

receiving, via the network, response information from a plurality of providers of goods and/or services arranged in accordance with the priorities of request purchase information inputted into said negotiation field;

preparing an initial value, a pitch value, and a lowest value with respect to a bid price;

inputting response information in which the initial value has been set to said bid price;

in the case where another response information with a cheaper bid price is recognized in said negotiation field, inputting response information in which the bid price has sequentially been corrected on a unit basis of said pitch value; and

in the case where a bid price of a competitor is lower than said lowest value, stopping the input of the response information and breaking off the negotiation.

15. (withdrawn) A computer-readable recording medium in which a responder program has been stored, wherein said responder program comprises:

receiving request information inputted into a negotiation field formed on a network;

receiving response information from a plurality of providers of goods and/or services arranged in accordance with the priorities of request purchase information inputted into said negotiation field;

preparing an initial value, a pitch value, and a lowest value with respect to a bid price;

inputting response information in which the initial value has been set to the bid price;

in the case where another response information with a cheaper bid price is recognized in said negotiation field, inputting response information in which the bid price has sequentially been corrected on a unit basis of said pitch value; and

in the case where a bid price of a competitor is lower than said lowest value, stopping the input of the response information and breaking off the negotiation.

16. (withdrawn) A responder program, which causes a computer to:

receive request information inputted into a negotiation field formed on a network;

receive response information from a plurality of providers of goods and/or services arranged in accordance with the priorities of request purchase information inputted into said negotiation field;

prepare an initial value, a pitch value, and a lowest value with respect to a bid price;

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input response information in which the initial value has been set to the bid price;

in the case where another response information with a cheaper bid price is recognized in said negotiation field, input response information in which the bid price has sequentially been corrected on a unit basis of said pitch value; and

in the case where a bid price of a competitor is lower than said lowest value, stop the input of the response information.

17.   (currently amended) A method of operating a data processing system, comprising:

receiving a mediating request from a client of an auction, the mediating request including requested purchase information;

analyzing the mediating request to determine a requesting condition, wherein the request condition can be determined from client personal information, from a client inquiry, or from a predetermined calculating expression;

communicating the requesting condition to a selected plurality of providers of goods and/or services for the auction;

receiving response information in accordance with the requesting condition from participating ones of the plurality of providers; and

communicating the response information of all of the participating providers to the selected plurality of providers;

wherein the providers are not identified to the client until the client issues a negotiation finalizing instruction.